(b) The functions and responsibilities of the Authority will include the following:

(a) to ensure technical compatibility and effective inter-relationship between different service providers;

(b) revenue sharing arrangement between different service providers;

(c) protection of consumer interest;

(d) national security interest;

(e) lay down and ensure the time period for providing local and long distance circuits of telecommunications between different service providers;

(f) facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of telecommunication services so as to facilitate growth in such services;

(g) to ensure compliance of licence conditions;

(h) fixation of tariffs for telecom service and ensuring price regulation;

(i) to ensure effective compliance of Universal service obligations;

(j) resolution of disputes between service providers;

(k) rendering advice to the Government in the matters relating to the development of telecommunication technology and any other matter relatable to telecommunication industry in general; and

(l) levy fees at such rates and in respect of such services as may be determined by regulations.

The authority is likely to start functioning shortly.

Uttarakhand Agitation

564. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 419 given in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 1995 and state:

(a) what are the names and other details of persons killed in connection with the Uttarakhand agitation in Haldwani, Karnprayag and other places in 1994 and 1995;

(b) what are the salient features of the judgement delivered by the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court in the matter of firing and rape of women on 2nd and 3rd October, 1994; and

(c) what action has so far been taken against the indicated civil authorities together with details and names of authorities against whom action is being contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (c) According to available information, 25 persons lost their lives in connection with the Uttarakhand agitation. The names of 20 such persons have already been given in reply to Starred Question No. 419 in the Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 1995 referred to in this Question. Also, in reply to the same Question (419), it was mentioned that four persons viz., S/Shri Dharmanand Bhatt, Gopi Chand, Parmajeet Singh and Rampal were reported missing. These persons are also now reported to have lost their lives. In addition, one Shri Ashok Keshav, who had been hospitalised in PGI Chandigarh after the incident, has since expired. One rallyist, Shri Rajesh Negi, R/o. Bhaniyawala, is reported missing from Muzzafarnagar after police action on 2.10.1994. He is still untraceable.

Part (b) of the question perhaps refers to a judgement delivered on 9th February, 1996 by the Allahabad High Court—Uttarakhand Sangharsh Samiti and others Vs. State of Uttar Pradesh. The judgement covers wide-ranging issues such as awarding compensation to the victims of firing and rape, damages and compensation for constitutional wrongs, setting up of Human Rights Commission by the State, examination of certain recommendations of the Law Commission of India on Damages in Applications for Judicial Review and administrative action against officers found guilty during investigation.

In so far as part (c) of the question is concerned, the chargesheets have so far been filed against the following public servants of the Government of Uttar Pradesh:

S/Shri

1. S.M. Naseem, IGP
2. Bua Singh, DIG.
3. A.K. Singh, DM
4. R.P. Singh, SP
5. Mahesh Kumar Mishra, Addl. SP.
6. V.K. Panwar, ADM
7. J.P. Sagar, City Magistrate
8. D.D. Saraswat, Circle Officer.
9. Jagdish Singh, Circle Officer.
10. Geeta Prasad Nainwal, Circle Officer.
11. Rajbir Singh, Station Officer.
12. Moti Singh, Station Officer.
13. Radha Mohan Dwivedi, Station Officer.
14. Brij Kishore, SI
15. Brijender Pal Singh, SI
16. Anil Kumar, Constable.
17. Umesh Chand, Constable.
18. Kamal Kishore, Constable.
19. Brijraj Singh, Constable.
20. Satyapal Singh, Constable.
21. Gyanchand, Constable.

Further regular departmental action has been recommended by the CBI to the Government of U.P. against the following public servants:

S/Shri

1. Harjit Singh Cheema, Station Officer
2. Ramji Miser, Inspector
3. Anand Singh, Constable
4. Ved Prakash, Constable
5. Data Ram Azad, Constable
6. Ram Kumar Singh, Constable
7. Gulzari Singh, Constable
8. Virender Singh, Constable
9. Satyapal Singh, Constable
10. Kartar Singh, Constable.

Modernisation of Postal Services in the Country

565. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the modernisation of Indian postal services to give more efficient and responsive service to the customers has been completed;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the postal counters are being computerised throughout the country;

(d) if so, the total number of computers to be installed and the number out of them provided so far together with details of such post offices; and

(e) by when this process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) A programme to modernise the post offices in the country is being implemented through computerisation of counter services to provide more efficient and responsive service to the customer. Optimizing the benefits of the counter machines, entire front office activities in selected important post offices are also being modernised providing services on "single window" principle. 115 post offices all over the country were modernised under this programme during 1994-95. 350 more post offices are targeted for modernisation during the current year and the programme is to be extended next year and beyond subject to availability of resources.

(c) Computer-based counter machines are being provided for postal counters in post offices having adequate traffic and where necessary support for maintenance of the machines is available.

(d) The 8th Five Year Plan has a target of providing 5000 computer-based counter machines in different post offices in the country. Till date, 1819 counter machines have been installed and commissioned in 658 post offices in the country as per details in the enclosed statement. (see below) and 1000 more such machines are being installed during the current year.